

The Cholera—Its History and Progress.

The first distinct data that we have in reference to cholera, is that, in year 1781, it attacked a body of troops at Gunjam, a coast town 535 miles north-east of Madras, which latter place it reached during the next year. In the year 1783 it attacked many of the native inhabitants of India, and twenty thousand deaths occurred. It then disappeared: but in 1817 it again appeared, and fairly earned its name as a terrible epidemic disease.

In Jessore, (India,) ten thousand deaths in a population of sixty thousand took place. From India it was supposed to be conveyed in ships to Mauritius, the Dutch East Indies, and China. In 1821, it had reached the Persian gulf; and, continuing its western progress, we find it on the banks of the Tigris, thence in Caucasia; and, finally, on the 14th of September, 1830, it reached Moscow. Taking the course of the great rivers, the Don and the Volga, the disease rapidly spread itself over Russia. In January, 1832, the cholera appeared at Edinburgh, on the 14th of February, at London, and in March, at Dublin. Calais and Paris were also attacked in March.

The ninth day of June, 1832, will ever be remembered as the period when this scourge appeared on the American continent. It appeared at Quebec, where it was also very severe in 1849. The first case in New York occurred on the 27th of June of same year, and the disease disappeared in October. It is estimated that in the fourteen years, from 1817 to 1831, the disease carried off eighteen millions of the inhabitants of Hindostan. The number of cases in England and Wales in 1831-'2, was 63,236; deaths, 20,726. In Scotland, 20,202 were attacked, of whom 10,650 died. In Ireland, there were 54,552 attacks, and 21,171 deaths. In the city of London there were 11,020 cases, and 5,275 deaths. The disease visited Spain and Italy in 1835-'6, and finally disappeared from Europe in 1837-'8.

The appearance of the cholera in the United States created a great panic, and probably many persons died from fear. In Quebec, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Albany, Norfolk and Rochester there were about fifteen thousand deaths during three months.

It will be seen by the above that it is comparatively easy to ascertain the origin and progress of the cholera of 1832. The epidemic of 1848-'9, is not so clearly traced. It is alleged that it made its appearance at Cabul in 1845, and pursuing almost the same course as in 1832, it reached Moscow in December 1847. In May 1848 it reached Constantinople and spread throughout the Danubian provinces. The cholera appeared at London and Hull in September, 1848. It disappeared in December, and the whole number of deaths in the United Kingdom was 72,180. It is estimated that the expense of funerals exceeded five hundred thousand pounds sterling, and the cost of the disease altogether about two millions of pounds. The only large city exempted from the cholera was Birmingham, where not a single case occurred, although half the inhabitants of a small town in the vicinity were swept off. In New York the cholera appeared in May 1849; culminated in the week ending July 25, when there were 714 deaths; and disappeared in November. The whole number of deaths was 4,072. In some of the western cities it was much more severe.

The cholera at present has not risen to the dignity of an epidemic, and the calendar of 1854 will bear no comparison with those of 1832 and 1849. It first appeared during the winter of 1853-'4, at Sunderland, England. It is a remarkable fact that the cholera of 1832 appeared at the same place. The first case in New York was reported early in June; but there have not been sufficient number of deaths since to excite anything like a panic. The cholera is now raging at Detroit and Montreal with great violence. It has reached St. Louis also, and will probably go down the river to New Orleans. By accounts published in another part of this paper, it will be seen that the disease is making terrible ravages at Jamaica and Barbadoes.

The above is but a slight sketch of the rise and progress of this terrible scourge; but

since its first appearance the attention of the learned men has been directed to the phenomena accompanying it. They have robbed it of half its terrors by demonstrating the fact that it may be cured if remedies are applied in its early stages. One example will suffice to prove the truth of this statement. In 1832 the town of Bilston, England, was ravaged by the cholera. One-third of the number attacked died. Dr. McCann, a distinguished physician, was sent down by government. He opened a dispensary, and requested every person whose bowels were in the slightest degree disordered to come to him. They did so, and he gave to each an astringent aromatic opiate medicine. Simple indeed, was it not? It stopped the disease, as these figures will show. In the five days preceding the opening of the dispensary, 227 persons died; in five days following 134 died; in the next five, 59, and on the eighteenth day not a fatal case was reported.

We cannot impress this point too strongly upon our readers. Check any appearance of diarrhoea, and if accompanied with cramps, let the body be rubbed with spirits. Where the looseness becomes serious, lose no time in obtaining the advice of a physician. Every person should be possessed of a sufficient amount of common sense to be able to eat and drink at this season. Violent changes of diet are always hurtful, and many persons in '32 and '49 were made confirmed drunkards by taking "a little brandy," as a preventive. Now we do not implicitly believe in brandy as a preventive, as a curative we scout it altogether, as it increases the inflammation; and whatever advantage might flow from its astringent qualities, is overbalanced by this fact.

We do not intend to go into an argument upon the vexed question as to whether or not cholera is an infectious or contagious disease. It seems to us, however, that it has been proved that it is neither contagious or infectious. Quarantines cannot keep it out of a country, as has been shown in Russia and Egypt. Thousands of people went from New York to Newport in 1849, and there never has been a case of cholera at the latter place. Ten thousand persons went from Marseilles to Lyons when the cholera was raging at the former place, and Lyons still enjoyed immunity from the scourge. The burden of proof goes to show that there is no necessity for cholera hospitals, or for the removal of a patient from home. It would be barbarity so to do, with the light we have now on the subject.

The causes of cholera, and the means whereby it may be checked or entirely prevented, are subjects which open a wide field for discussion. For the first, the best theory is that cholera is caused by an intensely poisonous gas emitted under certain conditions of heat and moisture, from decaying mineral and vegetable matter. This gas does not diffuse readily, but is borne in currents until it meets with conditions favorable to its development: that is, it travels until it arrives at some locality which is cursed with a dirty, careless population, who have been engaged in actively preparing themselves to meet such a guest. The poison is then received into the lungs, acts at once on the blood, and then we have cholera symptoms. How to prevent it? We have great faith in water, and were the citizens of New York all Mahometans for a month or so, and followed strictly the regulations of the Prophet so far as ablution goes, we should have but little need of cholera hospitals.—[N. Y. Herald.]

DEATH OF THE VICEROY OF EGYPT.—On the 14th of July, Abas Pasha, viceroy of Egypt, died of apoplexy at Benha, a town on the Nile. He was buried on the following day in one of the mosques at Cairo, and his funeral was attended by three regiments of soldiers and some officials, but no relatives or friends. There are reports that he did not die a natural death, but the truth is not easily ascertained on this point.

The intelligence was brought to Alexandria on the 16th, and Said Pasha (son of Mehemet Ali) the rightful heir, as the eldest of Mehemet's family, at once proceeded to the palace at Ras-el-teen, and there assumed the reins of government.—[London Times.]

The Great Plague in London.

In Dickens's Child's History of England, volume two, we find the following respecting the Great Plague that prevailed in the seventeenth century, in the city of London:

For this was the year and the time of the great plague in London. During the winter of 1664, it had been whispered about that some few people had died here and there of a disease called the plague, in some of the unwholesome suburbs around London. News was not published at that time like it is now, and some people believed these rumors, and some people disbelieved them, and they were soon forgotten. But in the month of May, 1665, it began to be said all over the town, that the disease had burst out with great violence in St. Giles, and that the people were dying in great numbers. This soon turned out to be awfully true. The roads out of London were choked up by people endeavoring to escape from the infected city, and large sums were paid for any kind of conveyance. The disease soon spread so fast that it was necessary to shut up the houses in which sick people were, and to cut them off from communication with the living.

Every one of these houses was marked on the outside of the door with a red cross, and the words "Lord have mercy on us!" The streets were all deserted, grass grew in the public ways, and there was a dreadful silence in the air. When night came on, dismal rumblings used to be heard, and these were the wheels of the death-cart, attended by men with veiled faces, and holding cloths to their mouths, who rang doleful bells, and cried in a loud and solemn voice, "Bring out your dead!" The corpses put into these carts were buried by torch-light, in great pits, no service being performed over them—all men being afraid to stay for a moment on the brink of the ghastly graves. In the general fear, children ran away from their parents, and parents from their children. Some who were taken ill, died alone, and without any help. Some were stabbed or strangled by hired nurses, who robbed them of all their money, and stole the very beds on which they lay. Some went mad, dropped from their windows, ran through the streets, and in their pain and phrenzy flung themselves into the river. These were not all the horrors of the times. The wicked and dissolute, in wild desperation, sat in taverns, singing roaring songs, and were stricken as they drank, and went out and died. The fearful and superstitious persuaded themselves that they saw supernatural sights—burning swords in the sky, gigantic arms and darts. Others pretended that at night vast crowds of ghosts walked round and round the dismal pits.—One madman, naked, and carrying a brazier full of burning coals upon his head, stalked through the streets, crying that he was a prophet, commissioned to denounce the vengeance of the Lord on wicked London. Another always went to and fro, exclaiming "Yet forty days, and London shall be destroyed!" A third awoke the echoes of the dismal streets, by night and day, and made the blood of the sick run cold, by calling out incessantly, in a deep, hoarse voice, "O, the great and dreadful God!"

Through the months of July, August and September, the great plague raged more and more. Great fires were lighted in the streets, in the hope of stopping the infection; but there was a plague of rain, too, and it beat the fires out. At last the winds, which usually arise at that time of the year which is called the equinox, when day and night are of equal length all over the world, began to blow and purify the wretched town. The deaths began to decrease, the red crosses slowly to disappear, the fugitives to return, the shops to open again, and pale, frightened faces to be seen in the streets. The plague had been in every part of England, but in the close and unwholesome London, it had killed one hundred thousand people.

COMPARATIVE COST OF SOLDIERS IN EUROPE. The following statement, which is founded on data afforded by Marshal Marmont, will show the relative expense to their respective countries of English, French, Prussian, Austrian and Russian soldiers, viz:—120 English soldiers cost as much as 538 Russian; 120 French cost as much as 350 Russian; 120 Prussian cost as much as 240 Russian; 120 Austrian cost as much as 212 Russian.

Nebraska-Kansas.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Courier & Enquirer says:—I have no doubt at all that a large majority of the first settlers in Kansas will be from slaveholding states, and that it will be a slave territory, and will be admitted as a slave state. It is possible that slavery may dwindle in Kansas after the first excitement, which will cause a rapid influx of slaves into that region, shall have passed, but I do not consider that probable. Slavery has thrived and is thriving in Missouri. In 1810 the territory contained 3,011 slaves; in 1820 it had 10,222. In 1830 the state contained 25,091 slaves; in 1840, 58,240, and the census of 1850 showed the number to be 87,422. But it will give a better view of the progress of this class of the population to compare it with that of the whites, as follows:

	Whites.	Slaves.	Increase of Slaves.
1810	17,227	3,011	—
1820	55,989	10,222	35 per cent.
1830	114,795	25,091	250 "
1840	323,888	58,240	233 "
1850	592,004	87,422	50 "

In seventeen counties next the line of Kansas, or within thirty miles of it, the free population is 111,000, and there are 14,584 slaves, showing a proportion between the two races almost identically the same as in the state at large. Now this line of counties stretches along the border of Kansas and Nebraska for 400 miles, and seems to be the least adapted for slave labor of any in Missouri, yet the proportion of slaves is fully kept up. In fact the institution seems to prefer the depths of the interior, and to seek the seclusion of the wilderness. Do not these facts fully sustain what I wrote at an earlier stage of this discussion, to wit:—"The argument that slavery is not likely to go to Nebraska, (Kansas,) is exactly equivalent to saying, that slavery did not exist in Missouri while it was a territory, has not since existed there, and does not exist there now."

The Graduation Law.

Among the various schemes introduced near the close of the late session of congress, as substitutes for the homestead bill, there has been some uncertainty as to the precise nature of the provisions of the one which actually became a law. We therefore give the following synopsis of the law, approved on the 5th of August:

Sec. 1 provides that all public lands which have been in market ten years or more, prior to application to enter the same under this act, shall be subject to sale at 75 cents per acre; those that have been in the market 20 years and upwards, to be subject to entry at 50 cents per acre; if 25 years or more in the market, to be subject to entry at 25 cents per acre; if 30 years or more in the market, to be subject to entry at 12½ cents per acre.

This does not apply to lands reserved to the United States by acts granting lands for railroads or other improvements, nor to mineral lands.

Sec. 2 provides, that upon every reduction of price under this act, the occupant and settler upon the lands shall have the right of pre-emption at such graduated price, upon the same conditions as the public lands are now subject to that right, until within 30 days preceding the next graduation or reduction that shall take place; and if not then purchased, shall again be subject to the right of pre-emption.

Sec. 3 provides that persons applying to enter lands shall be required to make affidavit that he or she enters the same for his or her own use, and for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, or for the use of an adjoining farm or plantation, owned or occupied by him or herself, and together with said entry, he or she has not acquired from the United States, under the provisions of this act, more than 320 acres; and if any person or persons, taking such oath, shall swear falsely, he or she shall be subject to all the pains and penalties of perjury.

Coming Down!—The prices of beef cattle the past week have fallen nearly one dollar per hundred. Some sales have been made as low as \$7. A few weeks since \$11.50 was about the average.—[N. Y. Express.]